



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

April 27, 2005

Ms. Lisa Ott Laky
General Counsel
Austin Travis County Mental Health Mental Retardation Center
P.O. Box 3548
Austin, Texas 78764-3548

OR2005-03620

Dear Ms. Laky:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 222700.

The Austin Travis County Mental Health Mental Retardation Center (the "center") received two requests for the responses to a request for proposals for insurance agent of record services for employee benefit insurance coverage. You take no position on the public availability of the requested information. You believe, however, that these requests for information may implicate the proprietary interests of the parties who submitted the proposals. You have submitted the requested information. You also notified the interested parties of these requests for information and of their right to submit arguments to this office as to why the information should not be released.¹ We have reviewed the submitted information.

An interested third party is allowed ten business days from the date of its receipt of the governmental body's notice under section 552.305 to submit its reasons, if any, as to why information relating to that party should not be released. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B). As of the date of this decision, this office has received no

¹*See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d); Open Records Decision No. 542 (1990) (statutory predecessor to Gov't Code § 552.305 permitted governmental body to rely on interested third party to raise and explain applicability of exception to disclosure under certain circumstances).

correspondence from any of the parties to which the submitted information pertains. Consequently, there has been no demonstration that any of the submitted information is proprietary for the purposes of the Act. *See* Gov't Code § 552.110(a)-(b); Open Records Decision Nos. 552 at 5 (1990), 661 at 5-6 (1999). Therefore, the center must release all of the submitted information.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular records at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other records or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For example, governmental bodies are prohibited from asking the attorney general to reconsider this ruling. Gov't Code § 552.301(f). If the governmental body wants to challenge this ruling, the governmental body must appeal by filing suit in Travis County within 30 calendar days. *Id.* § 552.324(b). In order to get the full benefit of such an appeal, the governmental body must file suit within 10 calendar days. *Id.* § 552.353(b)(3), (c). If the governmental body does not appeal this ruling and the governmental body does not comply with it, then both the requestor and the attorney general have the right to file suit against the governmental body to enforce this ruling. *Id.* § 552.321(a).

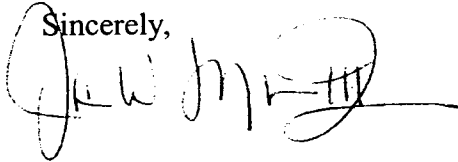
If this ruling requires the governmental body to release all or part of the requested information, the governmental body is responsible for taking the next step. Based on the statute, the attorney general expects that, upon receiving this ruling, the governmental body will either release the public records promptly pursuant to section 552.221(a) of the Government Code or file a lawsuit challenging this ruling pursuant to section 552.324 of the Government Code. If the governmental body fails to do one of these things, then the requestor should report that failure to the attorney general's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. The requestor may also file a complaint with the district or county attorney. *Id.* § 552.3215(e).

If this ruling requires or permits the governmental body to withhold all or some of the requested information, the requestor can appeal that decision by suing the governmental body. *Id.* § 552.321(a); *Tex. Dep't of Pub. Safety v. Gilbreath*, 842 S.W.2d 408, 411 (Tex. App.—Austin 1992, no writ).

Please remember that under the Act the release of information triggers certain procedures for costs and charges to the requestor. If records are released in compliance with this ruling, be sure that all charges for the information are at or below the legal amounts. Questions or complaints about over-charging must be directed to Hadassah Schloss at the Texas Building and Procurement Commission at (512) 475-2497.

If the governmental body, the requestor, or any other person has questions or comments about this ruling, they may contact our office. We note that a third party may challenge this ruling by filing suit seeking to withhold information from a requestor. Gov't Code § 552.325. Although there is no statutory deadline for contacting us, the attorney general prefers to receive any comments within 10 calendar days of the date of this ruling.

Sincerely,



James W. Morris, III
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JWM/sdk

Ref: ID# 222700

Enc: Submitted documents

c: Mr. John Cox
Resource Financial Group
c/o Ms. Lisa Ott Laky
ATCMHMRC
P.O. Box 3548
Austin, Texas 78764-3548
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Todd Gilmour
William Gammon Benefits Insurance
1615 Guadalupe Street
Austin, Texas 78701
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Jeff Kloc
Insurors of Texas
8310 Capital of Texas Highway North, Suite 255
Austin, Texas 78731
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Terry D. Hale
City-County Benefits Services
6112 Skahan Lane
Austin, Texas 78739-1234
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Demetrius Navarro
Navarro Insurance Group
9575 Katy Freeway, Suite 150
Houston, Texas 77024
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Dick Lepanen
Aon Consulting
9500 Arboretum Boulevard, Suite 100
Austin, Texas 78759
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Keith Carmichael
Nieman Hanks Puryear
401 Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701
(w/o enclosures)